



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS

DREAM CATCHER

APRIL, 1997

A MESSAGE FROM DOM NESSI

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs

FY 1998 will someday be summed up by one word: CHANGE! FY 1997, therefore, will have been the year we all prepared for the changes!

Following is a brief outline of the progress and status of impending changes--most of these areas are discussed in more detail throughout this newsletter:

- ☞ The negotiated rule-making process for the new housing grant program under the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is progressing. The Rules and Formula Committee have been meeting, and they're on schedule for submission of the rules to the Secretary in May.
- ☞ As the programs change, and the Tribal roles change, so do ONAP's functions. A committee of ONAP Administrators and staff members have drafted a proposed staffing plan for ONAP offices that will reflect the new approach to Native American housing programs. The staffing is scheduled to be in place at the start of the new program.
- ☞ FY 1998 Budget Proposal includes funding for the NAHASDA, as well as ICDBG and 184 Loan Guarantee Programs. The President's proposed budget places strong emphasis on several concerns that will affect Tribal programs: making welfare reform work, expanding affordable housing opportunities, and accountability for programs and funds.

In the midst of all this change, life goes on. The grant programs will continue throughout FY 1997. Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) for all programs are either "on the street" or about to be issued. It is especially important to watch the Federal Register for these NOFAs if you intend to submit applications under the last go-around of many of the grant programs.

FY98 HUD BUDGET PROPOSED

On March 18, 1997, Secretary Cuomo presented testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies. In his presentation, "HUD's Reform Efforts and Plans for the Future," he explained that, in addition to funding a full-range of housing and community development programs, the President's FY 1998 budget proposal focuses particular emphasis on meeting four core challenges:

- * **Averting a Section 8 Voucher/Certificate Program crisis** that may result from the high number--1.8 million units--of Section 8 contracts that are due to expire in FY 1998.

- * **Expanding affordable housing opportunities for all Americans** by continuing the transformation of public and Indian housing; helping the homeless and welfare recipients work towards self-sufficiency; and building on the successes of homeownership/partnership initiatives.
- * **Making welfare reform work** by facilitating communities in the creation of housing and jobs through HUD's economic development programs.
- * **Restoring the public's trust in HUD** by demanding accountability from recipients, providers, and program administrators.

Finally, Secretary Cuomo promised to get HUD's own house in order by instituting improved financial management systems, internal controls, and organizational changes to maximize reduced resources.

Secretary Cuomo reiterated the emphasis for next year by stating, "The [proposed] budget helps create a climate where families can flourish and hope can blossom. It will stretch to the poorest neighborhoods and reach out to empower those who want to reach up."

For a summary of dollars requested for FY 1998 HUD Native American Programs--see article in Program Changes section of this issue.